

Remarks:

Applicant's independent claims 1, 8, and 14 stand rejected (final) under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kusuda (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0016872).

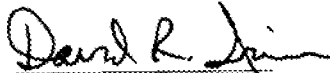
Applicant respectfully holds that this rejection is not proper, for at least the following reasons:

In response to the Office action of 6 June 2006, applicant amended independent claims 1, 8, and 14 to include a limitation of inviting clients to join a virtual shopping session. This limitation is supported by Applicant's Figure 3, which clearly shows a first client sending an invitation to a second client, by way of the server, to join the virtual shopping session.

Kusuda does not teach or suggest anything like this. Instead, Kusuda teaches only a collaboration system which various clients join or not under their own independent volitions. No invitation is sent from a first client to a second client, through the server, to join a virtual shopping session. Thus, this element of Applicant's claims 1, 8, and 14 is missing from Kusuda.

Consequently, Applicant continues to believe that independent claims 1, 8, and 14 as amended earlier are allowable, therefore so are dependent claims 2-4, and 9-11. Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to allow claims 1-4, 8-11, and 14, sincerely thanks Examiner, and requests that the application now pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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